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WESTERN MEDICINE has prepared a leaflet explaining its rules re-
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ration of manuscripts and of illustrations. It is suggested that
contributors to this Journal write to its offices requesting a copy
of this leaflet.

DEPARTMENT INDEX

(Itemized Index of Articles is printed on Front Cover)

	PAGE
Editorials	55
Editorial Comment	59
Original Articles: Scientific and General	62
California Medical Association	76
California Committee on Participation of the Medi- cal Profession in the War Effort	76
Committee on Public Policy and Legislation (Pend- ing Legislation)	79
Committee on Medical Education and Medical In- stitutions	81
Committee on Scientific Work (Annual Session)	82
Committee on Associated Societies (Nurses' Wage Scale)	82
Committee on Medical Economics (Income Tax)	83
County Societies: Membership; In Memoriam	86
Woman's Auxiliary	87
California Physicians' Service	88
Miscellany: News; Press Clippings	90
Medical Jurisprudence	98
Letters	99
Twenty-Five Years Ago; State Examining Board	102

EDITORIALS

U. S. SUPREME COURT'S OPINION ON GUILT OF AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION AND MEDICAL SOCIETY OF DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, IN "GROUP HEALTH ASSOCIATION" CASE

An Important Opinion, For Both the Pres-
ent and Future.—On January 18th, the Su-
preme Court of the United States handed down
its unanimous opinion, that the two petitioners
(American Medical Association and Medical So-
ciety of the District of Columbia) who, in a jury
trial in a lower court, had been fined \$2,500 and
\$1,500 respectively, were given a fair trial on
the charge of conspiring against "Group Health
Association, Inc.," of the District of Columbia, in
violation of the Sherman Antitrust Act of 1890—
and that the judgments should stand affirmed.

This much discussed case was started in 1937
when a grand jury, in the District of Columbia,
brought in an indictment against the two organiza-
tions and certain officers thereof and individual
physicians. In the initial trial, the Washington
District Federal Court ruled in favor of the medi-
cal societies and members involved, but this de-
cision was reversed by the District Court of
Appeals. The jury trial and judgment for penal-
ties then followed.

The American Medical Association and Medi-
cal Society of the District of Columbia thereupon
petitioned the United States Supreme Court to
not affirm the judgments previously rendered in
the lower court. However, on January 18, 1943,
the Supreme Court of the United States affirmed
the guilt of the two medical societies.

* * *

Court's Opinion Has Broad Implications.—
Concerning the opinion handed down by the Su-
preme Court, it can be said that it has implica-
tions more far-reaching than may be at first
thought. Justice Roberts, who wrote the opinion,
used language applying in its scope not only to
the case before the Court, but also to similar
cases such as may arise in any State in the
Union; in the profession of medicine, and pos-
sibly, also, in the legal and other professions.

It is most important that organized medicine, as
represented in state and component county medi-
cal societies, shall henceforth be on the alert, and
avoid procedures and actions that may make them
amenable to like judgments which could be en-
tered in lower local courts, where the Supreme
Court opinion would probably be cited as final